

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0356

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH JANUARY 21

SUMMARY: AT LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 21, HOSTED BY PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR DE FREITAS CRUZ AND BY ALL OTHER PERMREPS AND ASYG PANSA, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED: VENUE FOR THE SPRING NPG AND NAC MINISTERIALS, INFRASTRUCTURE - SLICE XXV, THE BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW, SALT, PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES' RECENT TRAVELS, MBFR AND THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, NEED FOR A NEW NATO ECONOMIC DIRECTOR, AND THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS REPORTED BELOW. PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF CANCELLATION OF THE U.S.-USSR TRADE AGREEMENT IS REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. VENUE FOR THE SPRING NPG AND NAC MINISTERIALS - PERMREPS EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN REACHING DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
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ON VENUE AND DATES FOR THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL, AND ON RELATED ISSUE OF VENUE AND DATES FOR THE SPRING NPG MINISTERIAL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER U.S. WOULD HOST SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL, AMBASSADOR BRUCE REPLIED HE HAD REFERRED THIS QUESTION TO

WASHINGTON AND WAS AWAITING A REPLY. AMBASSADOR BUSCH (NORWAY) SAID HE HAD PROPOSED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT NORWAY OFFER ITS HOSPITALITY

FOR THE 1976 SPRING COUNCIL MEETING. BUSCH INDICATED NORWEGIANS NEED A LONG LEAD TIME TO MAKE NECESSARY HOTEL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE - SLICE XXV - PERMREPS AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH APPROVAL OF SLICE XXV ON THE BASIS SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. AT THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S LUNCHEON AND SUBSEQUENTLY RECOMMENDED BY LUNS IN PO/75/1. PANSA INDICATED THIS WOULD APPEAR ON THE DPC AGENDA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW - PANSA HOPED THE REQUIRED ALLIANCE REPLY COULD BE MADE ON THE BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW BY EITHER FEBRUARY 10 OR 11. PECK (UK) REEMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO MAINTAINING THIS SCHEDULE AND LONDON'S ANXIETY TO PRESS FORWARD TO A CONCLUSION TO THIS AFFAIR.

4. SALT - AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE JANUARY 31 RECONVENING OF SALT AND ABOUT THE NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS, IT WAS THE SENSE OF THOSE PRESENT THAT A U.S. BRIEFING WOULD BE WELCOME PRIOR TO JANUARY 31 IF THE U.S. HAD SOME NEW PROPOSALS IT INTENDED TO INITIATE. OTHERWISE, IT SEEMED PREFERABLE TO HAVE SUCH A BRIEFING AFTER THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS IN TRAIN AND THE U.S. WAS IN POSITION TO ASSESS SOVIET ATTITUDES.

5. PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES' RECENT TRAVELS - IN RESPONSE TO A REMINDER FROM MENZIES (CANADA) ABOUT ALLIES' INTERESTS IN MR. SOARES' RECENT VISITS TO MOSCOW, BUCHAREST AND BUDAPEST, DE FREITAS CRUZ SAID HE WAS NOW IN POSITION TO BRIEF THE COUNCIL. PERMREPS AGREED TO SCHEDULE A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, TO HEAR THE PORTUGUESE BRIEFING.

6. MBFR AND THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL BRUCE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO ITS STATEMENT ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WHICH THE U.S. REP MADE ON JANUARY 20 IN SPC. HE SAID THE U.S. FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD REJECT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL OUTRIGHT RATHER THAN PUT FORTH A COUNTER-PROPOSAL. IF WE WERE TO MAKE A COUNTER-PROPOSAL, THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE ON IT AND THE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BEGIN TO DISCUSS REDUCTIONS UNTIL THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON A FREEZE. BRUCE EMPHASIZED U.S. BELIEF THAT THE BEST COURSE FOR THE ALLIES IS TO TELL THE EAST THEIR FREEZE PROPOSAL IS UNACCEPTABLE. WHILE REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR EXISTING ALLIED PROPOSALS OF A FREEZE IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE I REDUCTIONS. THE GUIDANCE WHICH THE U.S. PROPOSES, BRUCE POINTED OUT, WOULD ENABLE ALLIED OFFICIALS TO TELL THEIR PUBLICS THAT ALLIES DO NOT IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSE A FREEZE IN CONNECTION WITH REDUCTIONS, AND IN FACT HAVE PROPOSED A FREEZE ON ALL MANPOWER IN THE AREA TO COMPLEMENT PHASE I REDUCTIONS. BRUCE CONCLUDED

SAYING THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT IF THIS APPROACH IS ADEQUATELY PRESENTED, IT SHOULD EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH SEGMENTS OF WESTERN OPINION WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A FREEZE. PERMREPS NOTED BRUCE'S REMARKS AND POINTED TO STATEMENTS MADE IN THE JANUARY 20 SPC BY BRITISH, DUTCH AND BELGIAN REPS. BRUCE ACKNOWLEDGED THESE SAYING THAT HE HAD TRANSMITTED THEM TO WASHINGTON AND NOTED THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND CHIEF MBFR NEGOTIATOR, STANLEY RESOR, WILL STILL BE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AND WILL, NO DOUBT, CONFER ON THESE MATTERS.

7. NEED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC DIRECTOR - BRUCE POINTED TO NATO'S NEED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC DIRECTOR, A POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. PANSA ANSWERED THAT HIS PEOPLE HAD ALREADY INTERVIEWED SEVERAL CANDIDATES AND WERE ANXIOUS TO FILL THIS POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OTHER CANDIDATES WILL BE INTERVIEWED THIS WEEK.

8. PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE - A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF TIME WAS CONSUMED BY DE FREITAS CRUZ' PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. HE VIEWED THE OUTLOOK FOR EVENTUAL STABILITY WITH SOME DEGREE OF OPTIMISM BUT ADMITTED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIAL PREDICTIONS AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE MOST UNCERTAIN ELEMENT, IN HIS OPINION, IS THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AS A WHOLE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT THE FACTIONS, THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTH AND THEIR VARIOUS POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS.

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